

Lower Wisconsin Corn and Soybean Yields are Forecast

The August Ag Yield survey was conducted the last week of July and does not reflect any possible weather affects since that time. About 800 Wisconsin farmers reported acreage they intend to harvest and the yield they expect to receive. In addition, an objective yield survey was conducted where field measurements and stalk counts were taken to strengthen the corn yield forecast.

Lower corn and soybean yields are expected in Wisconsin this year due to cooler temperatures and wet conditions during the latter part of May and first half of June which slowed crop development. Drier conditions during July then caused additional stress to the crops. However, most corn and soybean acreage were planted earlier than normal due to the warm and dry early spring weather. Some acreage was replanted due to flooding in late spring. Despite the ever-changing weather, corn and soybean conditions are rated mostly good to excellent across Wisconsin.

Wisconsin corn acreage is forecast at 2.75 million acres to be harvested for grain in 2000, down 4 percent from the 2.85 million acres harvested in 1999. The forecasted yield of 137 bushels per acre is 6 bushels below last year. A total production of 377 million bushels is expected based on August 1 conditions.

Nationally, corn production is forecast at 10.4 billion bushels, up 10 percent from last year and up 6 percent from 1998. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 141.9 bushels per acre, up 8.1 bushels from last year. If realized this would be the largest production and highest yield on record since 1866 when corn estimates began. Grain harvested is forecast at 73.1 million acres, down 29,000 acres from June, but up 4 percent from 1999.

Wisconsin soybean production is forecast at 64.8 million bushels, 8 percent above 1999 due to an increase in acres. The yield forecast of 45 bushels is slightly below last year's yield of 46 bushels per acre. The 2000 soybean crop would set an all-time production record if realized. Of the 1.50 million acres planted, 1.44 million acres are expected to be harvested this year, up 11 percent from last year.

U.S. soybean production is forecast at a record high 2.99 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 1999 and 9 percent above the previous record of 2.74 billion bushels set in 1998. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.7 bushels per acre, up 4.2 bushels from 1999 and the second highest yield since the 1994 record of 41.4 bushels per acre. Acreage for harvest is forecast at a record 73.5 million acres, up 1 percent from 1999 and unchanged from the June acreage estimate.

Harvest of the second cutting of hay at the end of the first week of August was 94 percent complete, 14 percent above the five-year average and 9 percent above 1999, while the third cutting was 19 percent complete which was also above the five-year average and last year. Wisconsin's dry alfalfa hay production is forecast at 5.50 million tons, 16 percent below 1999. Expected yield of 2.75 tons per acre is down .35 ton from the previous year and harvested acreage is down 100,000 acres to 2.00 million acres. Harvested acreage for other hay, which includes small grain hay, clover, and other grasses, is forecast to be 500,000 acres which is unchanged from 1999. The other hay production is 1.00 million tons with a yield of 2 tons per acre. Both yield and production are unchanged from the previous year.

U.S. alfalfa hay production is forecast at 78.8 million tons, down 6 percent from 1999 and 4 percent from 1998. Yields are expected to average 3.32 tons per acre, slightly below last year's 3.50 tons per acre. Harvested acreage, at 23.8 million acres, is 1 percent below 1999.

Wisconsin oats harvested acreage is down 20,000 acres from last year to 280,000 acres. The expected yield of 69 bushels per acre is 7 bushels more than last year and 1 bushel more than the forecasted yield on July 1, 2000. Total production of oats is expected to be 19.3 million bushels. Dry edible bean production is forecast at 149,000 cwt., an increase of 20 percent from 1999 and 30 percent from 1998. Acres harvested increased 300 acres from last year to 8,300 acres, and yields increased from 1,550 pounds per acre in 1999 to 1,800 pounds per acre in 2000.

Tobacco production at 2.10 million pounds is down 25 percent from last year and 50 percent from 1998. Acres harvested is forecast at 1,000 acres which is 180 acres less than the acres harvested in 1999. Yields also are down from last year. This year yields are forecast at 2,100 pounds per acre compared 2,388 pounds per acre last year. Of the total acres expected to be harvested, 750 acres are Type 54 and 250 acres are Type 55. Type 54 yield is forecast at 2,200 pounds per acre which will total 1.65 million pounds, and Type 55 yield is expected to be 1,800 pounds per acre for a total production of 450,000 pounds.

Wisconsin apple production is expected to reach 67.0 million pounds, a decrease of 13 percent from 1999 and 12 percent from 1998. Wisconsin apple growers noted a light to moderate crop this year. Pollination season was very questionable, because of pockets of hail, heavy rains, and less bees being purchased. There were some concerns with the Apple Codling Moth, and Japanese Beetles. Apple scab is being monitored.

CROP SUMMARY, 1998-99 and Forecasted August 1, 2000

Crop	Harvested acres (thousands)			Unit	Yield per acre			Production (thousands)			Pro- duction % change 2000/99
	1998	1999	2000		1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	
	WISCONSIN										
Corn for grain	2,950	2,850	2,750	Bu.	137.0	143.0	137.0	404,150	407,550	376,750	-8
Soybeans for beans	1,100	1,300	1,440	Bu.	47.0	46.0	45.0	51,700	59,800	64,800	+8
Hay (all)	2,400	2,600	2,500	Ton	2.65	2.89	2.60	6,370	7,510	6,500	-13
Alfalfa	1,900	2,100	2,000	Ton	2.80	3.10	2.75	5,320	6,510	5,500	-16
All other	500	500	500	Ton	2.10	2.00	2.00	1,050	1,000	1,000	n.c.
Oats	300	300	280	Bu.	61.0	62.0	69.0	18,300	18,600	19,320	+4
Tobacco (all)	2.1	1.2	1.0	Lb.	2,063	2,388	2,100	4,230	2,818	2,100	-25
Type 54	1.5	0.9	0.8	Lb.	2,180	2,530	2,200	3,270	2,252	1,650	-27
Type 55	0.6	0.3	0.3	Lb.	1,745	1,952	1,800	960	566	450	-20
Potatoes (fall)	83.5	85.0	85.0	Cwt.	370	400	4/	30,895	34,000	4/	—
Dry edible beans 2/	7.2	8.0	8.3	Cwt.	16.00	15.50	18.00	115	124	149	+20
Apples (commercial) 3/	6.4	6.5	5/	Lb.	11,900	11,900	5/	76,100	77,400	67,000	-13
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	70	75	65	-13
	UNITED STATES										
Corn for grain	72,589	70,537	73,059	Bu.	134.4	133.8	141.9	9,758,685	9,437,337	10,369,369	+10
Soybeans for beans	70,441	72,476	73,474	Bu.	38.9	36.5	40.7	2,741,014	2,642,908	2,988,669	+13
Hay (all)	60,076	63,160	62,191	Ton	2.53	2.52	2.46	151,780	159,077	153,255	-4
Alfalfa	23,672	23,985	23,767	Ton	3.48	3.50	3.32	82,310	83,924	78,796	-6
All other	36,404	39,175	38,424	Ton	1.91	1.92	1.94	69,470	75,153	74,459	-1
Oats	2,755	2,453	2,452	Bu.	60.2	59.6	62.3	165,981	146,218	152,745	+4
Winter wheat	40,126	35,572	35,401	Bu.	46.9	47.8	45.0	1,880,733	1,699,989	1,594,321	-6
Spring wheat 1/	15,148	14,768	15,058	Bu.	34.9	34.1	36.8	528,469	503,132	553,719	+10
Barley	5,864	4,758	5,235	Bu.	60.0	59.2	58.8	352,125	281,853	308,020	+9
Tobacco (all)	717.6	647.2	493.7	Lb.	2,062	1,997	2,169	1,479,867	1,292,692	1,070,765	-17
Potatoes (fall)	1,214.0	1,166.1	1,199.9	Cwt.	356	369	4/	432,737	429,847	4/	—
Dry edible beans 2/	1,917.7	1,877.0	1,580.6	Cwt.	15.86	17.70	16.30	30,418	33,230	25,764	-22
Apples (commercial) 3/	467.6	461.9	5/	Lb.	24,900	23,300	5/	11,646,400	10,579,600	10,677,100	+1
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	1,159	1,188	1,231	+4

1/Spring wheat other than durum. 2/Yields in pounds. Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 3/Bearing acreage. 4/Release November 9,2000. 5/Released January 2001. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn for Grain, 7 Major States, 1998, 1999, and Forecasted August 1, 2000

State	Area harvested			Yield per acre			Production		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
	1,000 acres			Bushels			1,000 bushels		
Wisconsin	2,950	2,850	2,750	137.0	143.0	137.0	404,150	407,550	376,750
Illinois	10,450	10,650	11,050	141.0	140.0	158.0	1,473,450	1,491,000	1,745,900
Indiana	5,550	5,670	5,550	137.0	132.0	155.0	760,350	748,440	860,250
Iowa	12,200	11,800	12,000	145.0	149.0	155.0	1,769,000	1,758,200	1,860,000
Minnesota	6,750	6,600	6,600	153.0	150.0	154.0	1,032,750	990,000	1,016,400
Nebraska	8,550	8,300	8,050	145.0	139.0	136.0	1,239,750	1,153,700	1,094,800
Ohio	3,340	3,200	3,300	141.0	126.0	142.0	470,940	403,200	468,600
United States	72,589	70,537	73,059	134.4	133.8	141.9	9,758,685	9,437,337	10,369,369

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

